Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

1-20. (canceled)

21. In an automation network comprising a plurality of devices, ~~A~~a method for replacing a first drive device involving identifying an order of devices in the~~a~~ network, wherein the network contains a number of nodes, and wherein each of the nodes has a number of connections for interconnecting the nodes and the devices, the method comprising: ~~the following steps:~~

providing a second device with data memory or storage in which a relationship or order of the drive device with respect to at least the second device is stored;

~~a)~~replacing the drive device with a replacement drive device;

operating the replacement drive device to identify~~ing~~ a first of the nodes to which it is assigned~~connected to one of the devices~~ and to identify other devices including the second device;

~~b)~~ operating the replacement drive device to receive information from the second device enabling the drive device to ascertain:~~ing~~ the number of connections of ~~this~~ the first node and a predefined hierarchy of the connections and~~; c) determining for this node~~ the connection with which the replacement drive device is connected to ~~this~~ the first node~~;~~ and to determine ~~d)~~ ~~determining~~ for ~~this~~ the first node other connections which are connected to other nodes or devices; and

~~e)~~ establishing a relationship between devices in the network on the basis of the connection hierarchy predefined for the first node and of the determined other connections which are connected to the devices or other nodes.

22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21~~, wherein the steps a) e) are~~ executed by each of the devices.

23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein by the step of establishing a relationship ~~e)~~ another device is established as upstream neighbor and another device is established as downstream neighbor for each of the devices.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein each step of the method is repeated periodically.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the recited steps ~~a) e) of the method~~ are repeated whenever a device is no longer connected to the network.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the recited steps ~~a) e) of the method~~ are repeated whenever a new device is connected to the network.

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the recited steps ~~a) e) of the method~~ are repeated whenever a device is replaced by a new device.

28-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein determination of connections between the first node and other nodes ~~step d)~~ is performed by the MAC addresses.

32. (currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the step of establishing a relationship includes determining ~~relationship determined in step e) also contains the~~ IP addresses of the other devices.

33. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the method is executed by a computer program product.

34 - 37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The methodnetwork according to claim 2136, applied to wherein the network is an automation system containing controls, operator units, drives or actuators as devices.

39. (currently amended) The method network according to claim 2136, wherein the network is an Ethernet containing personal computers or peripherals as devices.

40. (currently amended) The methodnetwork according to claim 2136, wherein the applied to a network is installed in a means of rail transport system containing traction vehicles and cars as devices.

41. (new) In an reconfigurable network comprising a plurality of devices, a method for identifying an order of devices in the network thereby enabling determination of relative spatial arrangements among the devices, wherein the network contains a number of nodes, and wherein each of the nodes has a number of connections for interconnecting the nodes and the devices, the method comprising:

configuring the network according to a first hierarchical arrangement of the connections thereby establishing relationships among the nodes determinative of the relative spatial arrangements among the devices;

a first of the devices performing a series of determinations including:

determining a first of the nodes to which it is assigned,

determining other devices upstream or downstream from the first device,

determining the number of connections of the first node, the first hierarchical arrangement of the connections and nodes, and the connection with which the device is connected to the first node and

determining for the first node other connections which are connected to other nodes or devices,

the first device thereby acquiring in accord with the first hierarchical arrangement relationships among nodes and connections to which other devices are connected.

42. (new) The method of claim 42 wherein the network comprises a plurality of computer devices each positioned on a vehicle or car in a transport arrangement.